

FEB

This material contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C. Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

S-E-C-R-E-T
NOFORN/CONTINUED CONTROL

COUNTRY UAR (Egyptian Region)/Israel/W.Germany

SUBJECT Propaganda Activities of Dr. Johannes von Leers against Israel and West Germany

REPORT NO. CS-3/390,421

~~DATE~~ DISTR. 12 March 1959

NO. PAGES

REFERENCES

DATE OF INFO. 28 August - 9 September 1958

PLACE &
DATE ACQ. UAR, Cairo (28 August - 9 September 1958)

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

SOURCE: West German journalist with well-placed contacts in Cairo (C). Appraisal of
Content: 3.

Headquarters Comment. Professor Doctor Johannes von Leers, born 25 January 1902, in Viet Lubbe bei Gadebusch, Mecklenburg, Germany, is a former senior officer of the German SS, friend of Goebbels, and author of anti-Semitic books. He studied law at Kiel, Rostock, and Berlin and at one time reportedly was Professor of Oriental Studies at University of Jena, Thuringia, Germany. After World War II von Leers managed to escape imprisonment in Germany by Russian and American authorities. In 1950 he went to live in Argentina where he was also known as Dr. Hans Euler. He went to Cairo in 1952, presumably to look for a job, and returned to Argentina, where he remained until 1956. In the first half of 1956 he moved to Cairo, with his family, at the invitation of the UAR government which desired to use his anti-Semitic background and experience to organize and strengthen its anti-Israel propaganda program. 'Abd-al-Hajid Amin, a language instructor at Cairo University, claims that as a friend of long standing he is responsible for von Leers coming to Egypt and describes him as a sincere friend of Islam. (Amin is a German national, born around 1900, who came to Cairo in 1952 at the expense of the Arab League to teach German to senior Arab League officers. He was then the only such European to be employed by the Arab League. His true name is unknown but believed to be Schmidt.) The official position of von Leers in the UAR government was that of political and propaganda advisor in the Information Department of the Ministry of National Guidance. To cover these activities and to avoid embarrassment to itself, the UAR government in 1956 arranged an appointment for von Leers as a professor of language in Cairo University. He is also active in the Arab League and in 1956 was known as the "current Arab League representative for Germany in Cairo" and "Arab League advisor on German matters." He writes articles for the propaganda department of the League for publication in German newspapers. Von Leers is said to be a personality in the "European Popular Movement," an anti-American and anti-Soviet Fascist organization. He continues to write for the German neo-Nazi magazine "Der Weg" (The Way), published monthly in Buenos Aires.

1. The relations of German-born Dr. Johannes (Umar Amin¹) von Leers with the UAR government, as advisor to the government on anti-Israel propaganda, have improved since 1957. Since moving to Egypt in 1956 he has become widely known and is apparently considered the first-ranking German there in terms of confidence. He

S-E-C-R-E-T
NOFORN/CONTINUED CONTROL

[illegible]

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

EE/RE	1	SR		EE/RE/G	1	NE/Rcg	1		
FE	4	WE		EE/G	1	NE/3	1		EGF-3634
NE/7/E	4	WH/R	1			NE/2	3	1	
NE/8	4	LO				NE/C	3	1	

GSA
CGM MED

FILE IN

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
DATE 2002-2008

has never been officially received by UAR President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir, but is persona grata with the following officials:

- (a) Ali Sabri, Minister of State for Presidential Affairs, UAR, who has granted him several interviews.
 - (b) Anwar al-Sadat, president of the Afro-Asian Solidarity Council.
 - (c) Muhammad 'Abd-al-Khaliq Hassuna, secretary-general of the Arab League.
 - (d) Former Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, Haj Amin-Al-Husayni, through whom von Leers was initiated into Islam² and with whom he wants to make a pilgrimage to Mecca.
 - (e) Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Azim Ibrahim Fahmi, Director of General Investigations Department of UAR Ministry of Interior.
 - (f) Sayed Hafez 'Abd-al-Karim, secretary-general of Ministry of Economy and Commerce, UAR (Egyptian Region).
2. Von Leers assumes that he is under observation by the West German government. Knowing that the UAR values the maintenance of good relations with Bonn, particularly in the economic field, von Leers now limits his calls at government offices and occasionally sends instead his daughter, Gesine, or his wife to make them for him.
 3. To lessen the possibility of surveillance by phone-tapping, von Leers planned to move on 1 October 1958 from his former address (#21 rue 83, Cairo-Ma'adi) to a larger house at #52 rue 11 in the same suburb, where he could have a direct telephone line². The Arab League will pay the costs of this move. For his services to the League he receives between 80 and 100 Egyptian pounds per month.
 4. The Algerian resistance movement is also of interest to von Leers, and he advises 'Abd-al-Karim of information he receives on developments relating to it. He helped German journalist Erich Kernmayer (who writes for "Deutsche Soldatenzeitung," Munich, under the pen name Erich Kern) to compile material for his book "Algerien in Flammen" (Algeria in Flames).
 5. Von Leers is writing a book, tentatively entitled, "Der Freiheitskampf der Kolonialunterdrückten Völker" (The Fight for Freedom of the Peoples Repressed by Colonialism). This will present the history and problems of the peoples of Asia and Africa formerly or still under colonial domination. The book will conclude with a discussion of the occupied countries of Europe.
 6. Von Leers's hatred of the West German government and its policies is increasing. He speaks only in terms of contempt of Bundestag President Eugen Gerstenmaier and Foreign Minister Heinrich von Brentano. He is slightly less bitter toward President Theodor Heuss. His letters are full of disparagement of that government. He is constantly pressing for the West German nationalist opposition to come to an agreement with the Soviet Union, on the theory that the Soviets should be brought in to clean up the West. To arguments that such measures would result in great loss of life and freedom he replies that in view of West Germans' conduct since 1945 they deserve nothing better. He believes that after such a clean-up the Soviets could be removed by anti-colonial pressure and the Reich restored.

S-E-C-R-E-T
NOFORN/CONTINUED CONTROL

GS-3/390,421

- 3 -

7. In March 1958 von Leers had a slight stroke and is still somewhat crippled. His doctor attributes the stroke to overwork and has ordered him to curtail his activities.

Headquarters Comments

1. The names "Umar Amin" would be Muslim names assumed upon initiation into the Islamic faith. No information is available to confirm that von Leers ever took this step.
2. Report does not indicate whether "direct line" means one to a government office, or simply a non-party line.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

S-E-C-R-E-T
NOFORN/CONTINUED CONTROL